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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,674	10/17/2003	Igor Shvets	1817-0147P	8293
2292	7590	01/06/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			GITOMER, RALPH J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1655		

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/686,674	SHVETS ET AL.
	Examiner Ralph Gitomer	Art Unit 1655

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15, 16 and 25-68 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-14 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 11/17/05 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that as amended, there is now overlapping subject matter where claim 1 is now generic. This is found persuasive regarding claims 1-14, 17-24 because all the claims include a coating which promotes cellular adhesion. Claims 15 and 16 include a coating which inhibits cellular adhesion and so remain restricted from Group I.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Chen.

Chen (US 2002/0182633 A1) entitled "Methods of Patterning Protein and Cell Adhesivity" teaches in paragraph 26, cytophilic and cytophobic regions where the cytophilic regions are coated with extracellular matrix molecules. See paragraph 66. Paragraph 123 is directed to cell adhesion assays. Results are discussed in paragraph 131. See claim 21.

Claims 1-14, 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Griffith.

Griffith (6,197,575) entitled "Vascularized Perfused Microtissue Microorgan Arrays" teaches in the abstract, endothelial cells line the channels to form "blood vessels" as well as other cells are present to screen for effect on the cells, the effect of the cells on materials to test materials on the cells. In column 3 cells can be one or more types such as endothelial cells or others. The cells secrete extracellular matrix molecules. The channel has various geometries as desired. One can control the perfusion rate through the array and the nutrient, metabolite, test compound concentrations on each side of the channels. In column 5 first paragraph, the interior is coated with ECM proteins or other adhesion promoters or coated to resist protein adhesion. In column 19 first full paragraph, migration modulators can be incorporated into regions of the device. In column 20 first two paragraphs, endothelial cells can form lining equivalent to blood vessels. Mixtures of cells can be seeded. See claims 1, 5 and 28 particularly. Fig. 14B shows connected channels with a restricted interconnecting channel.

All the features of the claims are taught by each of the above references for the same function as claimed.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6-14, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of the following applies in all occurrences.

In claim 6 "another microchannel connected to the other microchannel" and "the channels" is confusing as to what may be intended. In claim 19 line 2, "to for" may be a typo.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shvets (6,770,434) is the parent patent.

Xu (US 2005/0112544 A1) teaches coated devices.

Kim (6,893,851) teaches cell motility apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ralph Gitomer whose telephone number is (571) 272-0916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terry McKelvey can be reached on (571) 272-0775. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Art Unit 1655

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